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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Human rights

Information received from Governments

Honduras

I. Responses to the recommendations made to Governments at the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues[1]

1. In 1994, the Government of Honduras became the eighth country in the world to adopt and ratify International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries.

2. Since 1995, the Government of Honduras has funded, with the resources of international and governmental organizations, a number of governmental programmes and projects aimed at meeting the needs of indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples. Examples are:

(a) "Our Roots" programme of the Honduran Social Investment Fund, funded in the amount of US$ 20 million;

(b) Special Prosecutor's Office for Ethnic Affairs and Cultural Heritage of the Public Prosecutor's Office, funded in the amount of $3 million;

(c) National Education Programme for the indigenous and Afro-Caribbean ethnic groups of Honduras, funded in the amount of $15 million;

(d) Assistance Programme for the Indigenous Peoples of Honduras, funded in the amount of $3.5 million;

* E/C.19/2009/1.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008*, Supplement No. 23 (E/2008/43).

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(e) Programme for the Comprehensive Development of Indigenous Peoples, funded in the amount of $11.5 million;

(f) Indigenous Peoples Unit, attached to the Ministry of the Interior and Justice, funded in the amount of $1 million;

(g) Draft special act on the comprehensive development of indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples;

(h) Strategy for the Comprehensive Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Honduras, containing a 25-year vision for the development with identity of indigenous peoples.

II. Follow-up to recommendations on the economic and social development of indigenous women and on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples

3. In all its actions following Honduras' ratification of ILO Convention No. 169, the Government of Honduras has engaged in a process of free, prior and informed consultation with the indigenous peoples of Honduras. Specifically, the concepts of inclusion and gender equity have been mainstreamed in the projects and programmes that directly benefit indigenous peoples. The two most recent contributions to the development of a national policy on indigenous peoples, namely a draft special act on the comprehensive development of indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples and the Strategy for the Comprehensive Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Honduras, are tangible evidence of these efforts.

III. Problems encountered in implementing the Permanent Forum's recommendations

4. It should be noted that the Government of Honduras does not attend meetings of the Permanent Forum on a regular basis.

IV. Factors that have facilitated implementation of the Forum's recommendations

5. The efficient and effective computerized system developed by the Permanent Forum, which enables access to all the discussions and decisions relating to indigenous issues, has been a positive factor in this respect.

V. National institutions responsible for coordinating indigenous issues

6. These institutions include the Indigenous Peoples Unit, which is attached to the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and headed by Edy Menab Ronas: edymiskut@yahoo.com; landlines (504) 232-6836, (504) 239-5433 and (504) 235-4968; mobile (504) 9960-4047.

7. Another institution worthy of mention is the Programme for the Comprehensive Development of Indigenous Peoples (DIPA), which is attached to the Ministry of the Interior and Justice and headed by Carlos Mauricio Palacios: cpalacios@gobernacion.gob.hn; land lines (504) 232-6836, (504) 239-5433 and (504) 235-4968; mobile (504) 9998-1136.

VI. Systematic capacity-building programmes for civil servants responsible for indigenous issues

8. The Programme for the Comprehensive Development of Indigenous Peoples (DIPA) (1689/SF-HO) offers assistance to Government agencies through its institutional strengthening component in order to meet the needs of indigenous peoples in a culturally relevant manner.

VII. Information on the Government's promotion and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and suggestions for ways in which the Permanent Forum could, in accordance with article 42 of the Declaration, establish a constructive dialogue with Member States in order to promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the Declaration and to follow up the effectiveness of the Declaration

9. A communications and dissemination strategy is being developed as part of the Comprehensive Development Programme in order, inter alia, to inform and build the capacity of indigenous peoples and civil servants, through the use of traditional and non-traditional mechanisms and systems, within the national and international legal framework for the protection of the rights of indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples.